

Claims

[c1] 1. A power supply unit controller for a rack enclosure in which a plurality of devices communicate via a backplane, said controller comprising:
means for reading at least one signal indicative of an output supply level being provided to said backplane by a power supply unit associated with said power supply unit controller;
memory for storing at least one value associated with a respective one of the at least one signal, at least one scaling value associated with a respective one of the at least one signal and dependent on said power supply unit, and a power supply unit serial number; and
communicating means, responsive to a request from one of said devices, for returning a state of said associated power supply unit to said requesting device, said state including a combination of:
a summary of the current status of the power supply unit,
said at least one value,
said at least one scaling value, and
said power supply unit serial number,
according to said device request.

[c2] 2. A power supply unit controller according to claim 1 wherein said controller is arranged to store scaling values dependent on the supply levels supplied by the power supply unit associated with the controller.

[c3] 3. A power supply unit controller according to claim 1 wherein said device is a higher level processor arranged to monitor environmental conditions in an entire rack enclosure and the controller is responsive to a request from said processor to return said scaling values.

[c4] 4. A power supply unit controller according to claim 1 wherein said controller is arranged to store a power supply unit serial number.

[c5] 5. A power supply unit controller according to claim 1 wherein said controller is responsive to a device request to condition the amount of information returned by the power supply unit controller in response to the request.

[c6] 6. A rack enclosure including a backplane, at least one power supply unit connected to and adapted to supply power to said backplane, each associated with a respective power supply unit controller according to claim 1, and a plurality of devices receiving power from said backplane, at least one of said devices adapted to communicate with the at least one power supply unit controller.